

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

DATE DISTR. 18 Feb 1953

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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2.5X1

1. In analyzing the characteristics of the terrain in Baku in contemplation of possible construction programs in that city I think certain factors are important. Any construction project which involved excavation beneath the surface of the ground in Baku would have considerable complications. The earth itself is sandy and so oily and greasy that it would be difficult to work with and it would also be dangerous due to the possibility of fire breaking out. Added to this is the fact that there are numerous oil wells scattered over the city and a maze of pipelines pass from these wells to the storage and refining areas. These pipelines would greatly complicate any large earth moving projects in downtown Baku.
2. [redacted] several friends who were frequently in and out of the city since that time. They should have had fairly reliable information regarding any large scale construction enterprises. I heard no news from these people concerning any extensive plans which would involve projects such as a network of bomb-shelters, modernization of the city streetcar line, a subway, a rejuvenation of the city sewerage system, or any new buildings or factories. Nor did I hear of any surveying that might have taken place in the city in preparation for a large construction project.
3. In 1950 a group of road-building and traffic engineers were sent to Baku, although I never heard why they were sent there. [redacted] the transportation system was adequate, although inter-city road transportation in the vicinity was bad. I would guess that these engineers went to Baku for the purpose of improving the system of roads leading south into the Azerbaijan area. There were no restricted areas to my knowledge in downtown Baku.

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